

Personnel update. On Monday, January 27, 2014, I terminated Joshua Harwood's employment with the Public Works Department. He was a probationary employee hired in August, 2013. Apparently during the ice storm, he damaged a utility pole on Goodrich Lane and never let anyone know. This coupled with other performance issues led to his dismissal. He was also the employee who struck the side of door #4 which I reported in January. His position will now be filled by Lucas Fortin, who was hired in November 2013 to work on the rubbish truck. This has created an opening on the rubbish truck and we are presently accepting applications for this position. Ryan Bradstreet, our mechanic who had back surgery in January is recovering well and should be back sometimes in March. To help fill the void his absence has created, we have made an arrangement with the Waterville Public Works to help us out if we get into a bind with more equipment down than we can handle.

Our trash truck has been a problem since it was new. Last week we had to send it to Bangor for a major repair to the hydraulic panel on the rear of the truck. We used Waterville's spare truck for couple of days until it too developed problems. We rented a commercial truck from CMD in Fairfield for two days at a cost of \$1000.00 per day. Our truck is also scheduled to return to O'Connor Motors this Friday for ongoing coolant problems. For these reasons, I am exploring the cost of replacing our rubbish truck. More information to come during budget discussions.

As the Council is probably aware, Maine DOT has decided to postpone their paving project on Route 201 and Bay Street until 2015 to allow Summit Gas to install their infrastructure before paving. I will be approaching the Council in the near future to discuss changing our Street Opening Permit structure. On the subject of winter, it has been a challenging one. Our equipment has performed well and the crew has stepped up to the challenge. We had one major repair in January. We had to replace the radiator in our grader at a cost of \$6000.00. Our sand pile is shrinking fast and we have been talking to Waterville about potentially hauling in sand. We have identified a couple of sources. We will see better after this week's storms. If we do haul, it will have to be soon before the roads are posted.

This winter's ice storms and other issues with our sewer pump stations has made it evident to me that we need to start updating our stations. None of our stations have alarm systems that can alert us remotely to problems. Two of the nine stations have the ability to run off a generator and the others do not. Unfortunately, we do not have a generator capable of supplying these stations. If the power had gone down for any extended period during the ice storm, these pump stations would have stopped working. This would have resulted in possibly backing up into cellars or discharging to the environment. Both situations would be bad and could result in large expenses to the Town. I am putting together information to present to the Council during budget time.

Respectfully submitted by,

Paul E. Fongemie
Public Works Director